

## **A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF LEXICAL COLLOCATION TO ACQUIRE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EDITORIALS SELECTED FROM POPULAR NEWSPAPERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Lexical collocations are a fuzzy phenomenon that has not yet been satisfactorily explained by linguistic theory. At the same time, they are important both for understanding the structure of language and for many applications such as lexicography and natural language processing. Collocations are of great importance for second language learners, and a learner's knowledge of them plays a key role in producing language fluently. The present study is about the role of lexical collocation to acquire better understanding of editorials selected from popular newspapers. Data for the study were collected from 40 editorials selected from four reputed News papers. The objectives were to find out different types of lexical collocation in various News Papers, to access the role of lexical collocation in better understanding of editorials, to find out the uses of lexical collocation by Newspaper writers to proper communicate their views to the readers. It was observed that the most common type of lexical collocation is the adjective + noun which represent (45.04%) in all newspaper editorials, the verb + noun which represent (21.68%) is the second one, the noun + noun which represent (22.98%) is the third one. It was also found that the verb +adverb represent (4.04%) of the total number of lexical collocation. As a result the percentage of the use of lexical collocation in 40 editorials id (25%) of the total number of newspaper editorials.

**KEYWORDS:** Lexical Collocations, Lexicography and Natural Language Processing

### **INTRODUCTION**

Etymologically, Collocation is derived from the Latin word collocare which means to go together J.R. Firth is the first linguist who used and coined the term to indicate the habitual co- occurrence of lexical items.

A collocation is an expression consisting of two or more words that correspond to some conventional way of saying things or in the words of Firth "collocations of given word are statements of the habitual or customary places of that word." Collocations include noun phrases like strong tea and weapons of mass destruction; phrasal verbs like to make up, and other stock phrases like the rich and powerful. Particularly the subtle and not easily-explained patterns of word usage are interesting that native speakers all know, such as why do we say stiff breeze but not a stiff wind (while either a strong breeze or a strong wind is okay) or why do we speak of broad daylight (but not Bright daylight or a narrow darkness).

Throughout history, vocabulary learning has been sidelined in teaching of second languages and learning pedagogy. Within the field of vocabulary, researchers have emphasized the importance of word combinations, also known formulaic language that lexical combinations are very common in language discourse and differentiate the speech of native and non-native speakers, Foster (2001), who was looking for formulaic informal natives' speech, found that 32.3%

of speech consists of formulaic expressions. Furthermore, Howarth (1998) when looking at 238,000 words of academic writing claims that 31-40% was composed of collocations and idioms. Thus, all these studies show that formulaic language forms a large part of any discourse. Some other scholars said that knowing these formulaic sequences can facilitate the process of language learning. As subcategory of formulaic languages the notion of collocation has received considerable attention in the field of second language learning during the last few decades.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### The Editorials are Taken from

The Hindu, The Hindustan, The Times of India and The Indian Express, and 10 editorials were taken from each News Paper

### Method

This study deals with analytical study of lexical collocation in English editorials, mainly there are six types of lexical collocation, verb + noun, Adjective + Noun, Noun + Verb, Noun + Noun or Noun1 + of + Noun2, Adverb + Adjective, Verb + Adjective.

### Methodology

The selected editorials were analyzed in frequency and percentage. Each News Paper will have one table of data concerned with the six types of lexical collocation in ten editorials. These data are calculated in percentage/frequency style. It explains the total number of lexical collocation used in each editorial. The table also reveals the most and the least used type of lexical collocation. Finally, there is a table which shows the total number of each type of lexical collocation in all editorials which are selected from four News Papers.

**Table 1: The Frequency and Percentage of Lexical Collocation in Editorials (The Hindu)**

Editorial Titles	Types of Collocation						Total
	V + N	ADJ + N	N + V	N + N or N1+ of + N2	ADV + ADJ	V + ADV	
1. Debate and the pass the food bill	11	14	-	8	3	-	36
2. The Palk bay catch	5	16	-	5	2	1	29
3. The way forward in Assam	4	13	-	2	2	-	21
4. The right to talk and write	9	13	-	15	-	-	37
5. United they fell	7	11	-	1	2	-	21
6. Attacking Syria is a bad idea	4	17	1	5	-	-	27
7. Apersisting confusion.	9	7	1	5	2	4	28
8. Playing politics	5	10	1	3	-	3	22
9. Down but not out	6	7	1	5	-	1	20
10. Faithful to a cause	4	15	1	2	-	-	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>24.33</b>	<b>46.76</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>19.39</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>100</b>

### Analysis of the Hindu Newspaper Editorials

The total number of Lexical collocation in these ten editorials is (264) for all types of Lexical collocation. The table (1) reveals that about (64) of them are verb + noun collocation which represent (24.33%) of the total number used. The mostly frequent used type of lexical collocation is that of adjective + noun collocation which represents (46.76%) of the total number. The third one is noun + verb collocation which represents (1.90%) of the total number the fourth one is noun + noun which represents (19.39%) of the total number. The fifth one is Adverb + Adjective which

represents (4.20%) of the total number and the last one is verb + adverb collocation which represents (3.42%) of the total number. The percentages which shown above are represent the total percentage for each types of collocation in ten editorial.

**Table 2: The Frequency and Percentage of Lexical Collocation in Editorials (The Hindustan)**

Editorial Titles	Types of Collocation						Total
	V + N	ADJ + N	N + V	N + N or N1+ of + N2	ADV + ADJ	V + ADV	
1. It's a game of patience	9	15	2	6	-	-	32
2. Head for the map room	6	5	-	4	-	-	15
3. The writing is on the wall	5	6	1	5	2	-	19
4. Turning a blind eye	5	5	-	16	1	1	28
5. The onslaught of intolerance	4	10	-	4	1	-	19
6. Play by the rules	2	4	-	2	-	1	9
7. Give us a safe city not police protection	7	23	-	18	2	-	50
8. Little resonance for Hindutva	4	9	-	3	2	-	18
9. One standard for rape	6	5	-	8	-	-	19
10. There is no foreign hand in this	2	17	1	4	-	-	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>21.46</b>	<b>42.49</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>30.04</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### Analysis of the Hindustan Newspaper Editorials

As it is shown in table (2) the total number of Lexical collocation used in ten editorials which are selected from Hindustan newspaper (233).The frequency of the types of collocation are different form one editorials to another some certain types of Lexical collocation is (0%) in some editorials such as (noun + verb, adverb + adjective, verb + adverb) in editorial number. These three types of lexical collocation have little frequency in all editorials.

The most frequency type of lexical collocation in Hindustan editorial is adjective + noun which represent (42.49%) of the total number of six types of collocation, the second type is noun + noun which represent (30.04%) of total number, the third types is verb + noun which represent (21.46%). We can conclude from the table (2) that the type of lexical collocation which used in Hindustan editorials most frequently is adjective + noun and the type of lexical collocation which used rarely is verb + adverb which its percentage is only (0.86%).

**Table 3: The Frequency and Percentage of Lexical Collocation in Editorials (The Times of India)**

Editorial Titles	Types of Collocation						Total
	V + N	ADJ + N	N + V	N + N or N1+ of + N2	ADV + ADJ	V + ADV	
1. Break the logjam	6	8	-	1	-	1	16
2. Upwardly mobile	4	16	3	14	-	3	40
3. Crown it all	1	15	-	-	-	-	16
4. The mystery of missing file	2	6	1	1	1	1	12
5. Recording more than mere words	9	3	-	2	-	-	14
6. Dont micromanage	2	6	-	1	-	-	9
7. Anew china	5	8	-	2	1	2	18
8. Make woman safe	2	11	-	5	2	1	21
9. Dangerous game	5	3	-	1	-	-	9
10. Embracing G M group	3	6	-	3	7	1	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>22.28</b>	<b>46.86</b>	<b>2.29</b>	<b>17.14</b>	<b>6.29</b>	<b>5.14</b>	<b>100</b>

### Analysis of the Times of India Newspaper Editorials

The total number of lexical collocation which are used in editorials of the Times of India newspaper is (175) as it is in table (3)

The most frequent type of collocation in the editorials of the Times of India newspaper is Adjective + Noun which represent (46.86%) of total number that because the frequency of this type is (82) times so its percentage is the highest one and lowest percentage is (2.29%) which represent the Noun + Verb collocation frequency that because most the editorials of this newspaper (0%) used this type of lexical collocation also the Adverb + Adjective and verb + adverb is (0%) used in some editorials so their percentage are (6.29%) and (5.14%). The second type of lexical collocation which is mostly used is verb + noun which represent (22.28%) of the total number and the Third type of lexical collocation is noun + noun which represent (17.14%) of the total number.

**Table 4: The Frequency and Percentage of Lexical Collocation in Editorials (The Indian Express)**

Editorial Titles	Types of Collocation						Total
	V + N	ADJ + N	N + V	N + N or N1+ of + N2	ADV + ADJ	V + ADV	
1. Judgment call	1	9	-	-	-	3	13
2. The real danger	2	2	1	3	-	1	9
3. Smudged red lines	2	11	-	4	-	-	17
4. Sunday spectacular	2	-	-	3	-	1	6
5. Chennai no show	1	3	-	3	-	-	7
6. Being the change	1	10	-	3	-	-	14
7. Ill fitting cap	2	4	1	5	1	1	14
8. Factor it out	3	5	1	4	-	2	15
9. Its own enemy	5	8	-	6	2	-	21
10. The common purpose	6	7	1	3	-	1	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>18.66</b>	<b>44.02</b>	<b>2.99</b>	<b>25.37</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>6.72</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### Analysis of Indian Express Newspaper Editorials

As it is shown in table (4) the total number of lexical collocation which are used in the editorials of the Indian Express Newspaper is (134). The most frequent type of Adjective + Noun its percentage is (44.02%) of total number of lexical collocation. The second type is noun + noun which represent (25.37%) the third type is verb + noun which represent (18.66%) of the total number.

**Table 5: Comparison of the Hindu, the Hindustan, Times of India and the Indian Express Newspaper Editorials**

Newspaper	V + N	ADJ+N	N +V	N + N or N1+of+N2	ADV+ADJ	V+ADV
The Hindu	24.33%	46.76%	1.90%	19.39%	4.18%	3.42%
Hindustan	21.46%	42.49%	1.71%	30.03%	3.44%	0.86%
The Times of India	22.28%	46.86%	2.29%	17.14%	6.29%	5.14%
The Indian Express	18.66%	44.02%	2.99%	25.37%	2.24%	6.72%
Percentage	21.68%	45.04%	2.22%	22.98%	4.04%	4.04%

### Analysis of Editorials in Four Newspapers

Table 6 reveals that the most frequent used type of lexical collocation in the Hindu Newspaper editorial is that of

adjective + noun which represent (46.76%) of the total number of lexical collocation used in the Hindu newspaper editorials also this type of lexical collocation represent the highest percentage for other newspapers editorials which are chosen in this study. So its percentage in four newspapers is (45.04%)

The second most frequent type of lexical collocation in the Hindu Newspaper editorials is that of verb + noun which represent (24.33%) of the total number of lexical collocation used, while the second most frequent type in Hindustan newspaper editorials is that of noun + noun which represent (30.03%) of the total number of lexical collocation used, also this type is the second most frequent of lexical collocation in the Indian Express newspaper editorials which represent (25.37%) of the total number of used, but the second most frequent type of lexical collocation in the times of India Newspaper is that of verb + noun which represent (22.28%) of the total number of used.

The third most frequent type of lexical collocation in the Hindu newspaper editorials is that of noun + noun which represent (19.39%) of the total number of lexical collocation used also this type of lexical is the third most frequent type in the times of India newspaper editorials which represent (17.14%) of the total number of lexical collocation used. While the verb + noun lexical collocation is the third most frequent type in the Hindustan and the Indian Express newspaper editorials which represent (21.46%) and (18.66%) of the total number of lexical collocation.

## CONCLUSIONS

Within the scope of the study and the procedures followed the findings of the study have led to the following conclusions:

- The phenomenon of lexical collocation has been widely used in English newspaper editorials.
- The total number of lexical collocation used in all editorials is (806). In the Hindu newspaper editorials, it is used about (264) times, in the Hindustan newspaper editorials used about (233) times, in the Times of India newspaper editorials used about (179) times and in the Indian Express newspaper editorials used about (134).
- The reason behind using lexical collocation in editorials is to give extra information. The writers try to use collocation to make their expression meaningful and make the reader acquire better understanding.
- The most frequent type of lexical collocation used in Hindu newspaper is Adjective + Noun (46.76 %) in Hindustan Adjective + Noun (42.44 %) in The Times of India newspaper (46.86 %) where as in the Indian Express Adjective + Noun is 44.02 % percent.
- In all editorials, Adjective + Noun lexical collocation is the most frequent one and the Noun + Verb lexical collocation the least frequent to proper communicate their view to the readers.

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